

Lairn. 17. Aprile 1840.

Caro mio fanciullone,

Non vedo punto la necessità di quello mistero;  
mandando una lettera a me per le mani di Sig. Silvanus;  
e poi, perche <sup>non</sup> avete risposto alla zia che la lettera era  
vostre taccia era da me? Cosa potrebbe essa fare? e  
come poteva intendere questa lingua. In vece di  
mistero sarebbe meglio di non svelare i segreti degli  
altri. Sono stato un poco offeso in un altro affare.  
Avete scritto alla vostra cugina quello che ho fidato  
a voi; le mie opinioni di essa, tirate da un altro;  
il mio consiglio a voi; tutto che io credei poteva essere  
ben fidato in mio figlio. E perche? — per dispetto  
barbarico! Mene rincorerò!

24 April. Many things have withstood my  
writing for a whole week. I have another bone to pick  
with you. When I asked you if you had not mentioned  
to Dan my income, you acknowledged it — saying, "I  
did not know it was a secret; I suppose you are ashamed  
of being poor". Here are several injurious mistakes. Every  
thing is a secret which may do harm by revelation. If  
there is no necessity to tell a fact, which may possibly  
be <sup>a</sup> secret, it ought not to be told. I am <sup>not</sup>, or rather I should  
not be ashamed of being poor, were I so; but the contrary



is the truth; were it otherwise, I should be desperately in debt; no one can be poor whose means are equal to his reasonable wants. But, in the opinion of the world in general, an exact account of my income would denounce me as a poor man; and, to the Mays, as a dependant man. Such a conclusion will, generally, be acted on, instinctively, the Mays not excepted. My first notion of your having declared me, in their notion, poor, arose from their change of behaviour. They took liberties. Before you came here, every thing was done to ingratiate me. Afterwards, and very soon, a liberty was taken by depriving me of the "Evening Chronicle" at the Post Office, stopping it from me. This might be excused; <sup>in</sup> fact, that trifling liberty, I now recollect, was taken before you came. As time went on, however, I heard such things as "mutual advantage" spoken. Then I never could obtain my money; on the instinctive principle that those who are dependant must, of necessity, wait. They have been, and still are in debt to me. Latterly I was attempted to be ruled on the subjects of the Articles; and, at last, it came to the opinions in the Articles. May, from a mistaken idea of self-interest, began, without the grace of telling me, to resolve against printing any thing against the "National School Society", whose conduct I had frequently exposed. All at once he would not accept



my comments on the Society at a particular emergency,  
advised to this refusal by St John. He would not, he said,  
any more offend the Churchmen by any thing which could  
be construed against them. He was induced to this by  
promises, which he thought good "for his family" as  
he phrased it. In answer, I instantly said - "I do not  
pretend to find fault with your following your imagined  
profit; and do not find fault with me for not going  
on in your new path, and for saying that I will write  
no more for you till the end of the quarter, the 18 June."  
He stared like a stock pig. He asked me over and over  
again, seeming to think he had not heard aright. I  
believe he never would have acted in this manner, had  
he not heard I was with a small income. I never  
boasted of more than was correct - never, indeed, talked  
of my income, which made him respect me. As my  
suspicion of your having blabbed too much arose from  
their change of behaviour, it is not irrelative to imagine  
that you have lost me £40 a year. It may be otherwise;  
he may have chosen to change at all risks. At all events,  
he is astonished at my refusing to write, in the slightest  
degree, against my conscience; and this, though by omission,  
is a crime equal to commission, according to my conscience.  
I have treated the whole affair with great coolness, and  
even good humour; so that we continue good friends; and



he, I will know, thinks I will not eventually keep to the notice I have given. The more fool he - to disbelieve my word, and believe a promise, made to serve a particular purpose, from the Parsons. The Article, rejected by him will appear tomorrow in the "Independent"; it has been thankfully received; that Paper is a Radical one. I have followed it up with a Song of 12 stanzas, ridiculing episcopal inspection of Public Schools; which said song I shall send to other Papers - at least the "Morning Chronicle" and the "Western Times" of Exeter. It is really a song that pleases me, each <sup>short</sup> stanza, ending with inspection, for which there are so many rhymes. I have no notion that the proprietors of the "Independent" is in want of a writer; but, should such be the fact, and should we agree, I shall not regret the change. With the "Journal" I went half way, conscientiously; but with the "Independent" I could go the whole way with more spirit and pleasure. Nevertheless, you have, I conceive, done much harm.

Your copy of the "Constitution of Man" shall be carried by me to Wickham about the beginning of July. Tell your uncle & aunt of this, with my love. John Innot dined with me the day before yesterday; I did not ask him to trouble himself with it, as I, in spite of your urgency, intend to visit Sussex and Hants. Take care of the sundries for me. Your loving father  
Chas. Brown.



My dear Mr. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

My dear boy,

I am very glad to hear

of your success in the

last examination.

They must be

very satisfactory.

I hope to hear of you

in about a month.

Address a letter to

the moment you

write to me.

Yours affectionately,

[illegible]

[illegible]



